

Application Number 10/629,172
Responsive to Office Action mailed November 29, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A method for recovering an image from a document having an image, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a document having an at least partially light-transmissive first layer and a second layer located below the first layer, the second layer including at least one image;
- (b) illuminating the image with a light source;
- (c) recovering the image with a video image receiver to provide a source image;
- (d) ~~comparing the source image with at least one stored image that is stored in a computer~~ determining a type of the document based on the source image; and
- (e) ~~providing an output signal comprising information about the source image~~
- (e) illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer with the light source based on the determined type of the document; and
- (f) recovering a second image from the at least partially light-transmissive first layer.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 26, wherein the image within the second layer comprises at least one of typewritten characters, printing, a bar code, a photograph, or handwriting.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the visible portion of the spectrum.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the infrared portion of the spectrum.

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Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 29, wherein the image within the second layer is visible to the video image receiver under infrared light.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the ultraviolet portion of the spectrum.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 31, wherein the image within the second layer is visible to the video image receiver under ultraviolet light.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits polarized light.

Claims 34–35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises:

(g) [[f)] sending the output signal to a personal computer.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the document is a passport or an identification card.

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Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method for recovering an image from a document having an image, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a document having an at least partially light-transmissive first layer and a second layer located below the first layer, the second layer including at least one image;
- (b) illuminating the image with a light source;
- (c) recovering the image with a video image receiver to provide a source image;
- (d) ~~comparing the source image with at least one stored image that is stored in a computer~~
determining a type of the document based on the source image; and
- (e) ~~providing an output signal comprising information about the source image;~~
- (e) identifying an expected type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer based on the determined type of the document;
- (f) illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer with the light source;
and
- (g) determining whether an actual type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer is the same as the expected type.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the image within the second layer comprises at least one of typewritten characters, printing, a bar code, a photograph, or handwriting.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the visible portion of the spectrum.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the infrared portion of the spectrum.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 41, wherein the image within the second layer is visible to the video image receiver under infrared light.

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Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the ultraviolet portion of the spectrum.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 43, wherein the image within the second layer is visible to the video image receiver under ultraviolet light.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits polarized light.

Claim 46-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises:

(f) sending the output signal to a personal computer.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the document is a passport or an identification card.

Claim 50 (New): The method of claim 26, wherein illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer based on the determined type of the document comprises illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer with the light source to identify a type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer.

Claim 51 (New): The method of claim 50, wherein illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer to identify a type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer comprises:

illuminating the at least partially light-transmissive first layer with the light source at a low intensity to invoke a visual response; and

determining the type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer based on the visual response.

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Claim 52 (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising comparing the identified type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer with an expected type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer that is associated with the type of document.

Claim 53 (New): The method of claim 50, wherein identifying a type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer comprises identifying the at least partially light-transmissive first layer as one of a retroreflective laminate and a polyester laminate.

Claim 54 (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising adjusting the intensity of the light source based on the identified type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer to recover the second image.

Claim 55 (New): The method of claim 26, further comprising comparing the second image to a stored reference image.

Claim 56 (New): The method of claim 26, wherein determining a type of the document comprises decoding the source image into a computer-compatible code representative of the type of the document.

Claim 57 (New): The method of claim 56, further comprising looking up the code in a reference table to determine an expected type of the at least partially light-transmissive first layer associated with the code.

Claim 58 (New): The method of claim 26, wherein determining a type of the document comprises determining a country of origin of the document.